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Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 17 September 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am privileged to transmit herewith for your information, as contained in the annex to the present letter, the text of the letter dated 11 September 2002 from Mr. Alyaksandr Lukashenka, President of the Republic of Belarus, addressed to H.E. Mr. George W. Bush, President of the United States of America.

I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, item 162 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aleg **Ivanou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

President of the Republic of Belarus

Minsk, 11 September 2002

Exactly one year has passed since the unprecedented and treacherous terrorist attacks against the cities of the United States of America. On that day, the entire civilized world stood side by side with the American nation and felt its intolerable pain. Today, we still bear in our hearts the memory of the innocent people who perished in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania on that dreadful morning of 11 September 2001.

Belarus, though geographically far away from the United States, was also struck by the evil-doers: a young Belarusian girl lost her life in the ruins of the World Trade Center. Having experienced the horrors of the Second World War and the Chernobyl disaster, the people of Belarus understand all too well what the citizens of the United States of America had to go through.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world was made aware of the grave reality of new challenges and threats. We also realized that the evil of international terrorism can be eradicated only through joint, concerted efforts.

The Republic of Belarus considers itself to be an integral part of the international anti-terrorist coalition. We have consistently supported decisive efforts by the United States of America and other countries, within the framework of international law, to bring to a halt and prevent terrorist activities. Our country has been actively cooperating with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council and has been striving to make its contribution to this common cause.

Belarusian soil has never provided and will never provide shelter for terrorists. We are ready to continue our constructive cooperation with the United States of America and other countries in order ultimately to achieve victory over international terrorism. I am confident that the normalization of bilateral relations between the Republic of Belarus and the United States of America, to which there exist no objective obstacles, could bring greater benefits to both our peoples.

On behalf of the Belarusian people and on my own behalf, please convey, Mr. President, my sincere condolences to the American people, who suffered in the tragedy of 11 September 2001.

(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**